



PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY
702 CAPITOL AVE., ROOM 493
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-0246

ALDONA K. VALICENTI
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

July 15, 2001

Dr. Ghassem R. Asrar, Associate Administrator
Office of Earth Science
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASA Headquarters
Code YO
300 E. St. SW
Washington D.C.

Re: Support letter for the Kentucky grant proposal in response to **NASA BAA-01 -OES-01**

Dear Dr. Asrar:

The Office of Geographic Information, the principal investigator on this grant proposal is assigned to my office within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As part of their statutory responsibility, they coordinate geographic information projects and data acquisition both inside and outside Kentucky state government. This grant request brings together both federal and state government agencies who have responsibilities for Kentucky geography and is a good example of governmental coordination at multiple levels to accomplish a common goal. We have been involved with OGI in the preparation of their response to the State Local and Tribal Government NASA Broad Agency Announcement. We feel that this project will be a great benefit not only to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but also to state, local, and tribal governments in the rest of the United States.

There is a real need for understanding the potential of the remote sensing discipline to discern broad forest classes and extents in complex communities such as those which cover the landscape in Kentucky. It is also very important to understand how remote sensing can be used for initiatives such as Smart Growth to discern the uses of land in urban areas. The majority of smaller urban areas in Kentucky and many places in the United States still do not have good planning and zoning practices. A good land use / land cover map such as the one identified in the Kentucky grant proposal is one of the instruments that will provide local governments a place to start'. We are confident that the methodology proposed in this project can be transferred to other places in the country who do not have the necessary data resources to track and plan changes in the landscape.

Our agency is willing to commit to the following to ensure the viability of the investment **NASA** is willing to make in the State, Local and Tribal Government grant award:

- 1) Provide staff resources for overall coordination and contract management for this project.
- 2) Provide access to the Kentucky Statewide Digital Basemap layers (transportation, hydrography, elevation, administrative boundaries, geodetic control, and orthographic



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Imagery) and continue the programs and coordination necessary for updating and maintenance of these layers.

- 3) Make available the Office of Geographic Information computing resources.
- 4) Provide means for digital storage of raw data and derived products.
- 5) Allow the use of the Commonwealth IT infrastructure for disseminating data products and providing interactive map services over the Internet.

Please contact me if you have questions or for clarification about the role of GOT or OGI in the Kentucky grant proposal. My telephone number is: (502) 564-1201. My email address is avalicenti@mail.state.ky.us

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Aldona Valicenti".

Aldona Valicenti
CIO